

## Ms. LaCasse's Newsnotes

### WEEK IN REVIEW

What a crazy week we have had, but it has been all for the best! We had no school on Monday, Kelly Collins (our new 5th grade teaching addition) came to visit and observe on Tuesday and Wednesday, then Wednesday we had a Meet and Greet in the evening, and finally on Thursday, we split the monstrous class of 28 fifth graders down to 14 fifth graders in each class. The change has had a positive effect so far, with students being able to work, share, build community, and move around efficiently in the classroom. There is no doubt that we miss one another, but we certainly did what was best for the students.

### LANGUAGE ARTS

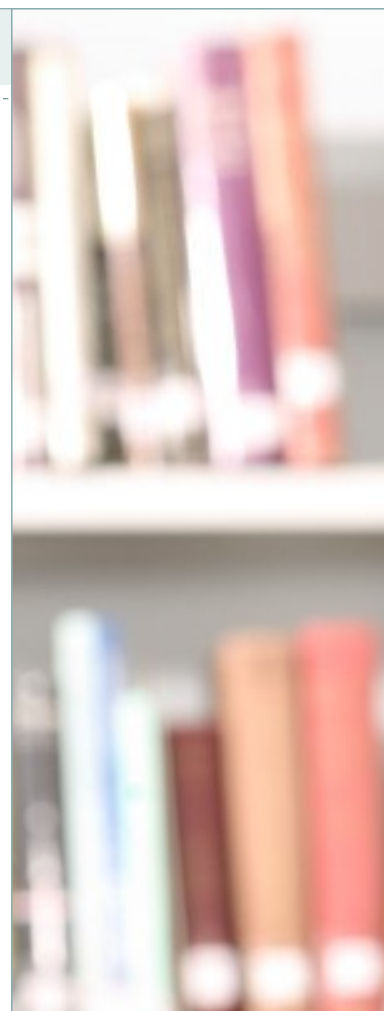
Students are making huge gains in reading and writing already. We are working on being essayists. So, we have made essay writing goals after grading some of our own writing, we have started working on the structure of an essay, and we started to gather ideas to write essays. Essays are a tough form of writing, but I have no doubt that the students can do it! We also are writing summaries as we read Because of Mr. Terupt, and learning how to distinguish between important events and interesting events. We are even using context clues to decipher vocabulary that we do not know, and making flash cards as we read more of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Next week, my goal is to start some Word Study!

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## CELEBRATION STORY

This week, I had a student shock me with their ability to determine important events in their Guided Reading story. They then continued to shock me by writing a summary, using the resources that we have created as a class. This student did amazing work! I am so proud of him!

## MATH

Students are now working on comparing fractions by using multiple different strategies. They are using area models, tape diagrams, equivalent fractions, common denominators/numerators, using benchmark fractions to estimate where to place fractions and more. This week, students finally realized that connection between finding equiv-

alent fractions and comparing fractions. It was like a light bulb went off! We also learned about improper fractions and mixed numbers, as well as how to change them to the other forms. That was a lot of fun, but thank goodness for number bonds to help us!

## SCIENCE/SOCIAL STUDIES

In Social Studies, we are still working on human rights. However, we are really focusing on learning the events that led to the creation of the UDHR. We will be reading examples next week of real life human rights issues that are currently happening, and we will be reading fictional events as well.

## DATES AND REMINDERS

- Check out our classroom website: <http://lacasse5thgrade.weebly.com/>
- Please remind students to dress warmly in the mornings. It is fall outside.
- We are also still a peanut free classroom, please remember that.
- Book orders are due on 10/28/16